



SAFETY Network

October 2011

www.michigan.gov/ohsp

Siringas awarded MADD Prosecutor Life Saver Award

The 2011 David M. Schieber MADD Life Saver Award was presented to Wayne County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Athina Siringas during the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Annual Conference.

Siringas successfully prosecuted and obtained a second degree murder conviction for a fatal traffic crash involving alcohol. The crash occurred on I-275 in Canton Township involving speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour, and an offender with a blood alcohol content of .26.

Despite multiple motions and arguments made throughout the prosecution of the case to dismiss the second degree

murder charge or settle on a plea agreement, a jury trial was conducted.



Office of Highway Safety Planning Director Michael L. Prince, MADD National President Jan Withers, MADD Life Saver Award winner Athina Siringas, Isabella County Prosecuting Attorney and Prosecuting Attorney Association (PAAM) of Michigan President Larry J. Burdick, and PAAM Executive Secretary Thomas Robertson.

After a five-day trial and approximately four-hour jury deliberation, guilty verdicts for second degree murder and OWI causing death were obtained.

The MADD Prosecutor Life Saver Award was first presented in 2006, and is annually awarded to Michigan prosecutors whose work exemplifies the ideals of MADD. In 2010, the award was renamed for Kent County Assistant Prosecutor David Schieber who successfully prosecuted many high profile and challenging drunk driving cases. Diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2005, Schieber died in 2009.

New partnership launches teen-focused Strive For A Safer Drive

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 11

Teens will be in the driver's seat during a new safe driving initiative. More than 300 high schools in eleven pilot counties have been invited to take part in a potentially life-saving project aimed at making students better and safer drivers.

Strive For A Safer Drive (S4SD) provides funding and resources to help teens talk to teens about safe driving in the hopes of reducing serious traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities among Michigan's most inexperienced drivers.

S4SD sponsors are AAA Michigan, Ford Driving Skills for Life (DSFL), and the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP).

S4SD will accommodate up to fifty high schools for the pilot 2011-2012 school year. Participating schools will receive a \$2,000 grant from AAA Michigan to help fund

activities. A team of students from each school will be asked to create their own



peer-to-peer campaign focusing on seat belt use, speeding, underage drinking/ impaired driving, and/or distracted driving.

Following three months of campaign activities, schools will prepare a summary detailing their accomplishments and present the reports to a group of sponsor representatives. The schools determined to have the top campaigns will be eligible to send students to a free Ford DSFL hands-on driving clinic with professional driving instructors.

The award-winning Ford DSFL driving clinics build young drivers' skills in the four key areas that contribute to more than 60 percent of teen crashes; driver distraction, speed space management, vehicle handling, and hazard recognition.

The S4SD pilot project is open to high schools in the top counties for teen traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Those counties are: Genesee, *Continued on page 7 >*

SAFETY Network

MDCC warns motorists to watch for deer

Last year in Michigan, an average of 153 vehicle-deer crashes occurred per day. The Michigan Deer Crash Coalition (MDCC) is reminding motorists that nearly half of these types of crashes happen during the October-to-December mating season when deer are very active.

According to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center, there were 55,867 deer-vehicle crashes in 2010, down from the 61,486 crashes reported in 2009. However, officials note that many crashes also go unreported, so actual crash numbers are much higher.

Kent County once again topped the state's counties in the number of car-deer crashes with 1,976 crashes. The remaining top nine were Oakland (1,836), Jackson (1,779), Calhoun (1,618), Lapeer (1,321), Montcalm (1,319), Genesee (1,295), Clinton (1,267), Sanilac (1,275), and Eaton (1,220).



Last year, eleven motorists were killed and 1,433 were injured as the result of a vehicle-deer crash. Eight of those deaths involved motorcyclists. These crashes cost \$130 million in damages each year with an average insurance claim of about \$2,100.

Motorists can help avoid dangerous encounters with deer by heeding the following tips:

- >> Watch for deer especially at dawn and dusk.
- >> Deer often travel single file, so if you see one cross a road, chances are more

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Joseph honored as SRP Deputy of the Year



A 13-year veteran of one of the largest sheriff's offices in the state was recently named Secondary Road Patrol (SRP) Deputy of the Year. Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy Harry

Joseph Jr. has been a SRP deputy for four years and is known as a firm but compassionate professional.

During his time with the SRP program he has made more than 300 arrests and written more than 5,000 citations while maintaining a good rapport with the community. Community is very important to Joseph, and he frequently represents the sheriff's office at community events, works during the Woodward Dream Cruise, and gives station tours during which he proudly shows off his patrol car and answers questions. An animal lover, Joseph also fosters dogs from local shelters and works to place them in new homes.

He is a crash reconstructionist and has investigated more than fifty fatal and near fatal crashes during his time as a SRP deputy. He has used his training and expertise to obtain multiple convictions while serving as an expert witness and often assists other departments with investigations and traffic stops.

He has looked "beyond the stop" on many occasions and has been involved in recovering a stolen vehicle, apprehending a bank robber, and assisting the FBI in identifying a person suspected of having ties to a terrorist organization – all while policing traffic stops.

A consummate professional, Joseph has received outstanding performance reviews from three sergeants while working SRP duty as well as recognition from Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard.

The SRP award was created to honor deputies or sergeants who show initiative, display a positive image of the sheriff's office both on and off-duty, and show outstanding work performance in the four service areas of the SRP program: patrolling and monitoring traffic violations, enforcing the law, investigating motor vehicle

crashes, and providing emergency assistance. The awards program is sponsored by the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) in partnership with the Michigan Sheriff's Association.

The Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention program was created by Public Act 416 of 1978. The program is often referred to as the "SRP" or "416" program. This state grant program provides county sheriff offices with funding to patrol county and local roads outside the limits of cities and villages. The program is managed by OHSP and in 2011, eighty-two counties participated.



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Parents using interactive website to protect teens while driving



Parents of teen drivers around Michigan are experiencing the extra challenges that autumn brings as they help their young drivers become safe drivers. Trips to and from school for classes and activities create more pressure for teens to give other teens rides and many of the most popular activities are at night, such as football games and homecoming dances. The change from summer to autumn brings a beautiful golden landscape but it also brings added risks with colder temperatures, shorter days, and more driving after dark. According to several studies, teen drivers are at greatest risk when driving with teen passengers or at night.

To help keep their teens safe, thousands of parents around the state are using a free, interactive web resource, saferdrivingforteens.org. The information and tools on

this website help parents protect their teens while they gain experience driving without adult supervision. This online program is presented by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) through a grant from the National Center for Injury Prevention Control, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The website features an easy-to-use interactive parent-teen driving agreement called Checkpoints that helps clearly establish where and when teens can drive without adult supervision,

and how teens can earn increased driving privileges. Because the agreement is interactive, parents can use it now to establish driving privileges for autumn and revisit it as their teen gains experience and autumn



driving conditions change to winter. The website also includes information about Michigan's driving laws for teens and videos about using the agreement and talking with teens about driving.

The Checkpoints parent-teen driving agreement was created by Bruce Simons-Morton of the National Institutes of Health and has been tested multiple times in several states, including Michigan. Teens whose parents used the agreement received fewer tickets and reported less risky driving behaviors (e.g., speeding, tailgating, turning fast, unsafe lane changes, cutting in front of other vehicles, going through yellow or red lights).

UMTRI and MDCH are encouraging parents to join the more than 12,000 parents already using the website.

For more information, visit saferdrivingforteens.org or contact Anne Esdale of the Michigan Department of Community Health at esdailea@michigan.gov.

17TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT 2012



SAVE THE DATE MARCH 20-22, 2012

Registration is \$75 on or before February 13 and \$125 after February 13.

More information will be available in coming months.

Visit www.michigan.gov/ohsp for updates.

KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

SAFETY Network

What you need to know about designer drugs

Kenneth Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

Designer drug is a commonly used term, but few actually have an understanding of what the term actually means. So what are designer drugs and just how harmful are they?

Gary Henderson, a University of California professor, came up with the term "designer drug" in the early 1980s. As Lawrence Clayton explained in his book *Designer Drugs*, these synthetic substances "are made to mimic the feeling and the 'high' caused by other drugs." However, they "cost less than the drugs they are modeled after."

Designer drugs were created by underground chemists to get around the laws set forth in the U.S. Controlled Substances Act (CSA) of 1970. The CSA called for the federal regulation of certain drugs. Under the terms of the act, all federally regulated substances must be categorized into one of five schedules. These schedules are based on a substance's medicinal value, possible harmfulness, and potential for abuse and addiction.

Schedule 1 is reserved for the most dangerous drugs that have no recognized medical use. Ecstasy (MDMA) and GHB are Schedule 1 drugs. Schedule II and Schedule III drugs have limited medical uses when prescribed by a physician, but the possibility of abuse and addiction among users remains a cause for concern. Methamphetamine and PCP are Schedule II drugs and ketamine is a Schedule III drug.

In most cases, an existing drug has been modified by altering the molecular structure. Sometimes an individual will find or create an entirely new drug with completely different chemical structures, but produce similar effects to an illegal drug. In other words, these drugs have been specially designed or altered. Designer drugs are synthetic and are usually illegal drugs produced and then sold on the black market.

Some designer drugs were initially made by medical labs for research purposes. However, in many cases, the drug was leaked onto the street where independent chemists copied them and began to produce the drug for the general public. Nearly all designer drugs have dangerous and unpredictable side effects. Additionally, designer drugs are extremely powerful and addicting. When combined with other drugs or alcohol, the result could have extreme consequences, including death.

There are more than 100 types of designer drugs. Here are a few designer drugs worth noting:

DESIGNER OPIOIDS:

a- methylfentanyl- Commonly known as *China White* and popular with heroin users.

3- methylfentanyl- Extremely potent and allegedly used as a chemical weapon by the Russian military in the Moscow theater hostage crisis.

DESIGNER HALLUCINOGENS:

2C-B- Similar to Ecstasy or MDMA.

5-MeO-AMT- Frequently sold as LCD.

DPT- Similar to DMT.

2C-T-7- Common in the Netherlands and Japan, known as *Blue Mystic*.

DESIGNER STIMULANTS:

Dimethocaine- One tenth the potency of cocaine.

MDPV- Commonly known as *bath salts* and becoming increasingly popular.

TFMPP- The legal alternative to Ecstasy.

DESIGNER SEDATIVES:

1,4-butanediol- Known as *One Coma Four* or *One Four Bee* and is similar to GHB. There have been many deaths associated with this drug.

Methylmethaqualone or MMQ- Similar to Qualludes and popular in Germany in the late 1990s.

DESIGNER CANNABINOIDS:

CP 47,497 - Developed by Pfizer in the late 1980s, but only popular in the last 3-5 years. It is the main ingredient in *Spice* a herbal incense similar to cannabis.

JWH-018 - Similar to cannabis, but is known to have concerning psychological effects.

HU-210 - It is said that this drug is more potent than THC and has been also been found in *Spice*.

DESIGNER STEROIDS:

Desoxymethyltestosterone- Also known as Madol or DMT (note that it is not related to dimethyltryptamine). This type of anabolic steroid was made illegal in the US in 2010.

Tetrahydrogestrinone- Referred to as THG or *The Clear*. This is also an anabolic steroid, but so potent that one only needs a few drops on the tongue. It is said to have serious side effects and was made illegal in the US in 2005.

These are only a few examples of known designer drugs. It is important to note that when a person consumes designer drugs and then drives they are putting others at risk.

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New crash test video illustrates importance of car seat use

Two children are involved in a car crash - one child walks away frightened and bruised and the other is taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The difference? A properly installed car seat.

A new crash test video, produced by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) and featuring child-size dummies, illustrates that scenario and shows exactly what can happen if a child is not properly secured in a car seat. The video is available at www.youtube.com/ohsp and on the UMTRI website www.umtri.umich.edu.

During the test, two thirty-three pound crash test dummies representing 3-year-old children were placed in the rear seat of a vehicle, one in a forward-facing car seat and one unrestrained.

The dummies were then subject to a lab test simulating a moderate-to-severe crash at about thirty miles per hour. In the time it takes to blink an eye, the unrestrained dummy was launched forward into the front passenger seat and then thrown back

into the seat experiencing severe head and neck impact while the dummy in the car seat was restrained and pulled back by the harness and seat belt.

The tests bring to light the importance of using a properly fitted car seat. Child passenger safety technicians are located across the state to help parents and caregivers ensure children are riding safely. For a list of seat checks, visit www.nhtsa.gov.

Last call for GTSAC traffic safety awards

The November 7 deadline is rapidly approaching for nominations for the 2011 Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) awards. Each year, the GTSAC honors organizations, programs, and/or individuals by presenting awards for outstanding contributions to traffic safety in Michigan.

Individuals or organizations may be nominated by a person who is familiar with the activities for which the nominee

is being considered. A person/organization may only be nominated in one category. No self nominations are accepted, however, a person may nominate a program, organization, or activity they are involved in.

Nominees must be a Michigan resident or an organization located in the state.

Entries will be judged by representatives of the GTSAC. Awards will be presented on March 21, 2012, at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit in East Lansing.



Nomination forms are available at www.michigan.gov/ohsp.

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End-of-summer crackdown nets over 200 drunk drivers

The seasons may have changed, but some Michigan motorists are still dealing with the consequences of their summer drunk driving arrest during the *Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest*, statewide enforcement crackdown.

Between August 19 and September 5, officers conducted more than 11,300 traffic stops resulting in 230 arrests for drunk driving. This includes thirty-four drivers arrested for a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .17 or higher under Michigan's High BAC Law.

This year's crackdown also included seat belt enforcement zones and patrols during which officers issued 2,530 seat belt and child restraint citations.

In addition, officers made seventy-four drug-related arrests and issued 835 speeding citations, as well as 2,225 citations for other traffic violations.

The crackdown was coordinated by OHSP and paid for with federal traffic safety dollars. More than 200 state, county, and local law enforcement agencies in thirty-five counties participated in the extra patrols.



OHSP restructures car seat distribution program

The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has restructured its car seat distribution program to more efficiently support local child passenger safety (CPS) efforts. Effective October 1, 2011, CPS technicians may request car seats directly from OHSP for distribution at local car seat check events and fitting station locations.

In previous years, OHSP's car seat distribution funding was included as part of the Safe Communities Traffic Enforcement grants. However, beginning in FY2012, car seat distribution is centralized with certified CPS technicians able to request seats directly from OHSP. OHSP staff will contact local agencies to determine seat availabil-

ity and order car seats to fulfill requests if necessary. Following car seat events or fitting station activities, a report form must be submitted to OHSP regarding distribution results.

This restructured approach will allow car seats that are purchased with federal funding to be allocated as efficiently as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the OHSP Car Seat Distribution Program or would like to order seats, contact Alicia Sledge, OHSP Program Coordinator, at (517) 241-1505 or via e-mail at sledgea@michigan.gov.

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In Michigan, the Legislature has made certain designed drugs a Schedule 1 drug. The Michigan Legislature banned K2/Spice in October 2010.

In August 2011, the Michigan Legislature banned *bath salts*. More specifically, the Legislature amended the law to list the following as Schedule 1 controlled substances:

- >> **Methylenedioxypropylone**, also known as *Bath Salts, Cloud Nine, Hurricane Charlie, Ivory Wave, MDPV, Ocean, Red Dove, Scarface, Sonic, White Dove, and White Lightning*.
- >> **5,6-Methylenedioxy-2-aminointhane**, also known as MDAI, and *Woof-Woof*.
- >> **Naphyrone** (Naphthylpyrovalerone), also known as *NRG-1* and *Rave*.
- >> **Pyrovalerone** (1-(4-Methylphenyl)-2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)-1-pentanone).

What that means for individuals who drive with these "designer drugs" in their system is they are subject to Michigan's Operating Under the Influence of Drugs Per Se Law, which reads in pertinent part as follows:

"...A person, whether licensed or not, shall not operate a vehicle upon a high-

way or other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles, including an area designated for the parking of vehicles, within this state if the person has in his or her body any amount of a controlled substance listed in Schedule 1..."

Driving with designer drugs is drugged driving. Driving with designed drugs in your system definitely would present a serious and potentially deadly danger to other motorists out on the highways. In conclusion, a crash involving drugged driving is one of the most frequently committed crimes in the United States.

For more information on this article and PAAM training programs, contact Kenneth Stecker, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, at (517) 334-6060 or e-mail at steckerk@michigan.gov. Please consult your prosecutor before adopting practices suggested by reports in this article. The information in this article is to help you keep up with trends in the law. Discuss practices that relate to this article with your commanding officers, police legal advisors, and the prosecuting attorney before changing your practice.

SAFETY Network

Applications now available for MACP Awards for Excellence in Traffic Safety

The Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) is seeking applications for the 2011 Awards for Excellence in Traffic Safety to recognize and reward the best overall traffic safety programs in the state.

Last year's program allowed ten local, county, and state law enforcement agencies to purchase traffic safety equipment and two local police agencies to schedule overtime traffic enforcement patrols.

To be considered for an award, law enforcement agencies must submit an application that documents their agency's efforts and effectiveness in conducting traffic safety programs. Applications must describe in detail the problem, partner-

ships established, solution(s) implemented, and the impact.

Up to \$50,000 in grants will be awarded for the purchase of equipment or overtime traffic enforcement through the Office of Highway Safety Planning. AAA Michigan will present each finalist agency with a personalized plaque. The awards will be presented at the MACP Winter Training Conference on February 9, 2012.

Applications are available at www.michiganpolicechiefs.org. The deadline for applications is December 16.

For more information, contact Jamie Foster at (517) 349-9420.

WSU to update Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Wayne State University (WSU) has been selected to assist with the update of Michigan's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The update will begin with information gathering during which WSU will conduct an in-depth analysis of the traffic crash data over the past five years and review individual SHSP action plans along with the action plan close-out reports.

Michigan's traffic safety community will have a chance to provide input through participation in surveys and planning sessions. Gathering input from stakeholders at the local, state, and federal level is an integral component of the update process and will ensure all interests are represented in the SHSP.

WSU will also be assisting Michigan with the pilot of the SHSP Evaluation Process Model for the U.S. Department of Transportation by including a detailed evaluation plan. The plan is scheduled to be completed by September 30, 2012.

Deer *Continued from page 2* >

are nearby waiting to cross, too. When startled by an approaching vehicle, they can panic and dart out from any direction without warning.

>> Be alert all year long, especially on two-lane roads.

>> Slow down when traveling through high deer-population areas.

The MDCC seeks to increase awareness of the problem among the driving public and reduce the number of deaths and injuries occurring each year on state roads. Members include: AAA Michigan, Insurance Institute of Michigan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of State, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Sheriffs' Association, Office of Highway Safety Planning, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, State Farm Insurance, and Traffic Improvement Association.

S4SD *Continued from page 1* >

Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Ottawa, Washtenaw and Wayne. OHSP is handling program coordination and is the direct point of contact for interested and participating high schools.



Teens and young adults, ages 16-24, are disproportionately involved in Michigan motor vehicle crashes. In 2009, this age group compromised around 14 percent of Michigan's active driving population, yet represented over 22 percent of drivers in all crashes and nearly 19 percent of drivers in fatal crashes.

In 2007, Ford DSFL began a similar project with traffic safety officials and private organizations in Illinois. Since 2006, Illinois has seen a 50 percent reduction in teen traffic fatalities.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/s4sd.

What's Ahead

DECEMBER

National Drunk & Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month

www.stopimpaireddriving.org

15-Jan.2 **Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest crackdown**
www.stopimpaireddriving.org

SAFETY Network

OHSP Staff:

| Contact | Program Area | Phone | E-mail |
|---|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| Michael L. Prince | Director | (517) 241-1512 | princem@michigan.gov |
| Janet Hengesbach | Executive Secretary | (517) 241-1512 | hengesbachj2@michigan.gov |
| SAFETY PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| Kathy Farnum | Senior Section Chief | (517) 241-2528 | farnumk@michigan.gov |
| Charlotte Kilvington | Analysis & Evaluation | (517) 241-2582 | kilvingtonc@michigan.gov |
| Brenda Roys | Grants Technician | (517) 241-2575 | roysb@michigan.gov |
| Alicia Sledge | Traffic Records and Occupant Protection | (517) 241-1505 | sledgea@michigan.gov |
| COMMUNICATIONS | | | |
| Anne Readett | Section Chief | (517) 241-2569 | readetta@michigan.gov |
| Jonathan Benallack | Graphic Designer | (517) 241-2571 | benallackj1@michigan.gov |
| Alyson Kechkaylo | Program Outreach | (517) 241-2546 | kechkayloa@michigan.gov |
| Melody Kindraka | Teen Driver | (517) 241-1522 | kindrakam@michigan.gov |
| Lynn Sutfin | Public Information | (517) 241-1513 | sutfinl@michigan.gov |
| FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT | | | |
| Kim Kelly | Section Chief | (517) 241-2556 | kellyk3@michigan.gov |
| Susan Bishop | Administrative Assistant | (517) 241-2520 | bishops2@michigan.gov |
| Julie Roth | Secondary Road Patrol | (517) 241-2572 | rothj3@michigan.gov |
| Jean Shattuck | Accounting Technician | (517) 241-2544 | shattuckj@michigan.gov |
| Spencer Simmons | Accountant | (517) 241-2584 | simmonss6@michigan.gov |
| PROGRAM MANAGEMENT | | | |
| Jason Hamblen | Section Chief | (517) 241-2578 | hamblenj@michigan.gov |
| Jamie Dolan | Northern Michigan | (906) 225-7036 | dolanj@michigan.gov |
| Pat Eliason | Police Traffic Services | (517) 241-2498 | eliasonp@michigan.gov |
| Michael Harris | Law Enforcement Liaison | (517) 241-2536 | harrism13@michigan.gov |
| Dianne Perukel | Alcohol | (517) 241-2565 | perukeld@michigan.gov |

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Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
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Office of Highway Safety Planning
P.O. Box 30634
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 241-2500